The Arlington Advocate

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EARLY DEADLINES

In order to give Arlington Advocate and Middlesex Community Newspapers employees a July 4 holiday, the deadline for news has been moved up for next week's edition.

Items for the news sections of the July 6 edition must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, June 30. This deadline is for all press releases, letters to the editor and photographs. Any item received after the deadline will be held for the July 13 edition.

Please see below under the Sports heading for information on sports deadlines.

RECYCLING **ROUTE** NEXT WEEK

NEWS/OPINION

SPROAT DIES: The Rev. M. Jeanne Sproat, the first woman to be ordained to the priesthood by the Episcopal Diocese of Boston. She died of cancer Monday in her Arlington home. She was 61. See page 7A.

■ SMOKING REGULATIONS: Arlington's two-week old smoking regulations get mixed reviews from the town business owners and customers. See page 13A.

■ ARLINGTON ACTIVIST: Judith Thompson, an Arlington resident, was born to be an activist. For details on her work helping children of war-torn countries, see page 4B.

■ EDITOR NAMED:Tom Rose is named as new editor of The Advocate. See page 7A.

■ MAROTTA COLUMN:Columnist Terry Marotta tackles the question of how the world was created. See page

SPORTS

Arlington youngsters are in the middle of the playoff season. The Sons of Italy team of the National Division of the Arlington Little League has won the league title for a second consecutive season. They took a best of three series from the Irish/American team, and will now wait for the results of the competition in the American Division before moving into the

er this month. ■ In the American League the Elks and DAV are meeting in a best of three series, with the winner to play VFW for the division title. The winner of that series will face the Sons of Italy later. (For additional information please see page 1B of this week's Ar-

Town Championship games lat-

lington Advocate) ■ The deadline for sports copy for next week's paper is at noon on July 3. All copy must be Faxed or brought in to The Advocate office at 5 Water Street by

CORRECTIONS

■ The Internet address that accompanied an article about Arlington on the Internet in the June 15 edition was wrong. The right address is http://world.std.com/(tilde)deeryan/arlin

■A photo of a Thompson School student in the June 22 edition of The Advocate was misidentified. He is Dean Putney, a kindergarten student. ■ An article in the June 15 edition incorrectly referred to the state's health department. It is the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Also, the smoking ban in Watertown allows for smoking sections in restaurants.

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COOL-AID



STAFF PHOTO BY ART ILLMAN

Seven-year-old lemonade entrepreneurs Ellie O'Connell, left, and Mia Grossman set up shop on a steamy Monday morning along Pleasant Street.

School Committee grants pay increases

By Patrick McGee SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

In the last meeting of the school year on Tuesday night the Arlington School Committee approved raises for the school system's four top administrators.

After a year on the job, Superintendent Kathleen Donovan's pay will go up \$3,000 next year to a salary of \$91,500.

Donovan praised and recommended pay hikes for her two assistant superintendents and the director of special education. The committee went into executive session for collective bargaining and reported back with retroactive raises for Donovan's three subordinates.

Assistant Superintendent for Business John Britt and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

and Instruction JoAnn Gurry, who served as acting superintendent a year ago, each receive a salary of \$67,760. Their retroactive raise, effective for the 94-95 year, brings their salary to \$70,925.

Director of Special Education Marilyn Bisbicos had her salary raised from \$61.896 to \$64,268.

Chair of the school committee Michael Healy said the raises were retroactive because the three did not receive a raise last

"We didn't address it in a timely manner," Healy said of the three administrators' pay. "And we rec-

tified that.' Britt, Gurry and Bisbicos were not present in the executive session nor were they present when the raises were publicly announced. Donovan joined the

SCHOOL, see page 5A

A mother's nightmare

Local woman laments daughter's abuse

By Will Morton

Rose Garabedian trusted the judgment of the Department of Mental Retardation several years ago when case workers recommended a group home for her mentally disabled daughter.

Whatever apprehensions Garabedian had then became a nightmare in reality when reports of abuse surfaced at the home on Thoreau Road in Northboro.

A recently released report by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) alleges that between 1989 and 1993, Garabedian's 36-year-old daughter and three other women were subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse by the home's employees and managers.

'I'm devastated, that's all know," Garabedian said. She said at the time she knew something was wrong with her daughter, who comes home to Arlington on the weekends, but never suspected she was being abused by the home's employees. "It's terrible for her and the other girls," she

Since the alleged incidents her

daughter is less willing to go out when she comes home, Garabedian said. "She's scared.

One of the women who lived in the home at the time of the alleged abuse has moved to another location, in Arlington, but Garabedian said her daughter is still living at Thoreau Road. Garabedian said she has been trying for some time to get her daughter out of the home, which has been under new management since 1993. She wants her daughter closer to

ABUSE, see page 4A

Plans close in on open space

By Scott L. Matson SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

For the first time in more than a decade, one of Arlington's three remaining tracts of land is drawing closer to development.

While plans for privately-owned open spaces adjacent to The Medical Center at Symmes and in East Arlington appear to be no further along than they were in the 1970s, the same is not true for a 22-acre site recently acquired by Arlington.

When the town purchased the Reed's Brook property in March town officials saw it as an opportunity to preserve some open space in town at a

With 22 acres at the town's disposal, Alan McClennen, the director of planning and committee development board, has already heard how some committees want it to take shape.

"We've never had 22 acres of land to talk about before," said McClennen.

He said it was a good problem to have.

The town acquired Reed's Brook for \$10,000 from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in March, the holders of the property since the previous owner declared bankruptcy. A total of \$300,000 in back taxes was owed on the

With approximately 44,600 residents within Arlington's five square miles, open space is a relative term.

The plans for Reed's Brook are far

SPACE, see page 6A





A place to call home

Local woman opens doors to Dorrington

By Tom Rose

While some people use their local newspaper to sell cars, buy houses, or find romance, Shawn Dorrington used his to attract a substitute parent.

Earlier this month, Dorrington, 18, a rising senior at Arlington High School, submitted a letter to The Advocate. In it he expressed his desire to reside in an Arlington home while completing his final year of

The newspaper printed the letter on two consecutive weeks in May and June. The re**sponse was** slow at first, but picked up after the second letter.

The unusual tactic worked. On June 23, Dorrington moved into the East Arlington home of Janet Halloran

"It's good to be back home," Dorrington said on his first day back in Arlington.

Halloran, a local real estate agent whose two grown children have left home, is glad to have him.

'When I read the letter (in the newspaper) my feeling was: 'Boy this kid is a survivor and he needs a break," " Halloran said. "I really believe you have to give back in this world. I wanted to make a difference in

someone's life.' Dorrington came up with the idea of writing an open letter to the community early in May, then took several days weighing its

merits. The plan's positive side was that it would make his situation known to many local residents. The flip side was that it would open his sometimes-painful personal life to public view.

'I figured I'd give it a shot and see what happened,"Dorrington said. "Some of my friends said it took a lot of guts."

In his letter Dorrington detailed his journeys from a foster home at the age of 9 to the homes of various relatives. It was not until he settled in town with his grandparents in 1988 that he felt at home.

The feeling lasted until both grandparents died of heart attacks in 1989 and 1990.

"I miss them a lot," Dorrington said. They were like real parents to me. I even called them Mom and Dad.'

Last year, Dorrington commuted to school from a group home in Woburn. While the commute was a manageable eight-mile trip, Dorrington decided he wanted to live here during his final school year.

Some people, including one social worker, were skeptical of his unusual plan to use the newspaper, he said. When the first letter received few responses, he began to wonder if it was a bad idea.

The second letter listed the name and phone number of his social worker at the state Department of Social Services. Whether that gave his story legitimacy is not known, but what is known is that his social LOCAL, see page 5A

COMMUNITY

Town ROUNDUP

Town Hall hours

Summer hours for administrative offices in the town will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Sept. 1.

in administrative offices only.

The telephone switchboard will be manned through 5 p.m. all sum- meetings from June 29 through

Rights Commission has job opening

The Arlington Human Rights Commission is currently seeking an individual to fill a vacancy.

The commission was established by the town to encourage mutual understanding and respect among all citizens in town. To this end. the commission works with public human rights issues. Additionally, tor in disputes arising from alcommission meets once each month. The position is voluntary.

If you are interested in the post, send a letter of interest to Donald

This schedule affects employees Scheduled meetings

There are no scheduled town



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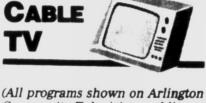
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schools and other town bodies on the commission can act as medialeged human rights violations. The

R. Marquis, Town Manager, 730 Mass. Ave., Arlington, MA 02174.



Community Television, public access Channel 3, unless otherwise noted.)

Thursday, June 29: 4 p.m. Another Page 5 p.m. Destinos Part 1 6 p.m. Video Shortcuts 6:30 p.m. Cards and Comics 7 p.m. Exploding Envelope 7:30 p.m. Cable Spotlight Special 8 p.m. Advanced Video Games 9 p.m. Living Unlimited 10 p.m. Scribblers

Friday, June 30: 10 a.m. Golden Opportunities 10:30 a.m. Inside Arlington 11 a.m. The Bookcase 11:30 a.m. Ready, Willing, Enable 12 p.m. Cable Cuisine 12:30 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting

11 p.m. Hal Koltin Show

(replay)

6 p.m. Front Page 7 p.m. Arlington's Educational Fo-

7:30 p.m. Forever Baseball 8 p.m. The Arlington Ear 9 p.m. Cable Spotlight 10 p.m. Arlington Philharmonic

Saturday, July 1: 10 a.m. Arlington's Educational 10:30 a.m. Town Hall Topics

11 a.m. State House Report 11:30 a.m. TBA

2 p.m. GED on TV 3 p.m. Discovering Psychology 4 p.m. Another Page 5 p.m. Destinos Part 1

8 p.m. Scribblers 9 p.m. Talking Sports 10 p.m. Forever Baseball 10:30 p.m. Hal Koltin Show

Sunday, July 2: 10 a.m. Live From the Pleasant Street Church 7: p.m. Living Unlimited 8 p.m. Exploding Envelope 8:30 p.m. Cable Spotlight 9:30 p.m. Forever Baseball

Monday, July 3: 4 p.m. Art in the Western World 5 p.m. Rural Communities 6 p.m. Town Hall Topics 6:30 p.m. State House Report 7 p.m. Front Page 8 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting (replay)

Tuesday, July 4: Community Bulletin Board

Wednesday, July 5: 4 p.m. GED on TV 5 p.m. Discovering Psychology 6 p.m. On Line 6:30 p.m. Inside Arlington 7 p.m. Talking Sports, LIVE 8 p.m. Paws for Adoption 8:30 p.m. Golden Opportunities 9 p.m. Our Women Talk 9:30 p.m. Enviro Closeup

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Joshua A Stillerman. 10 Revere St, \$220,000, 06/08/95, Richard E Rowsell To Janet E Mazur.

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BELMONT 55 Chilton St, \$335,000, 06/02/95, Robert Fogler Tr To John J

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Dalene R Tomassian To Fredric J Vinick. 68 Old Concord Rd, \$731,600, 06/07/95, Robert A Jones To Nora B

Devlin. 198 Washington St, \$279,500, 06/08/95, McKinleyville Inv To James D Leroux.

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365 Laws Brook Rd, \$258,000. 06/09/95, James A Smith To Gerald C Tolman.

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17 Drummer Boy Way, \$280,000, 06/05/95, Kevin F Crain To Phyllis 20 Drummer Boy Way, \$210,000,

06/09/95, Sherley L Kempster To Marilyn Campbell. 18 Ewell Ave, \$253,500, 06/05/95,

Atul Bansal To Antoinette Als paugh.

126 Grant St, \$112,500, 06/12/95, Eric Rosenthal To Melvin Rosen-

3 Hunt Rd, \$625,000, 06/07/95, CB Home Bldrs Inc To Jean-Pierre Kinet. 7 Lothrop Cir, \$830,000, 06/08/95,

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Douglas A Lauffenburger. 16 Village Cir, \$395,000, 06/06/95, Marie V Doran To Yamil H Kouri

Waltham St. \$160,000, 06/12/95. Howard E Nilson Tr To Douglas G Williams.

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4th of July Deadlines

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday July 4th, 1995. Therefore the deadlines for the papers of July 5 and 6, 1995 are:

Retail Adv. Friday June 30, 1995 - 5 PM. 617-487-7200 Real Estate Adv. Friday June 30, 1995 - 5 PM. 617-487-7200

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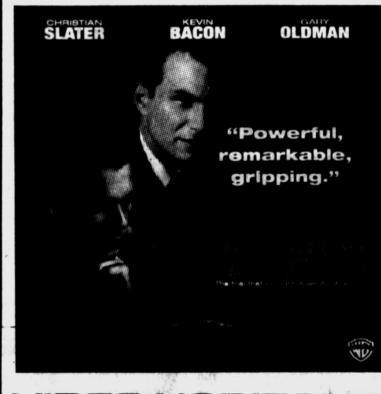
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ARRESTS

■ A 32-year-old River Street man was arrested at his home on June 21 after police responded to a "family trouble call." The man was arrested for assault and battery. Police said a woman at the house was bleeding and had bruises when they arrived. She did not receive any medical attention, police said.

Police arrested a 30-year-old Tewksbury woman on June 22 on an outstanding Arlington warrant. The ,1994 warrant was for failure to pay fines. The woman was held overnight in the Arlington jail.

A 20-year-old Waltham man was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Broadway on June 22. Police arrested the man because he was operating with a suspended license.

■ A 27-year-old Arlington man was arrested at his home on Freemont Street for allegedly beating and threatening a woman on June 23. The woman alleged that at some point the man pushed her to the ground and threatened to harm her. Police said no one suffered any injuries during the alleged incident.

A 19-year-old Mystic Street man was arrested on a default warrant June 24 at a local restaurant where he worked. The warrant was for failure to appear in court and he faces charges of domestic assault and battery.

A 19-year-old Woburn man was arrested for minor transporting alcohol on June 24. Police broke up a group of minors who had congregated in the municipal parking lot at Mystic and Chestnut streets at about 10 p.m.

A 20-year-old Waltham man was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Broadway on June 22. Police arrested the man because he was driving a car despite a suspended license. ■ A 44-year-old Somerville man was arrested in North Reading on an Ar-

lington Police warrant. The warrant was for violating a restraining order.

■ A 19-year-old Freemont Street man was arrested at the Thompson School for minor transporting. Police responded to a call at 3:15 a.m. on June 25 and found minors drinking in the school parking lot. ■ A 40-year-old Gordon Road woman

was arrested on June 25 at home for violating a restraining order and threatening to commit a crime. The woman was ordered not to abuse her husband and two children, police said. ■ A 19-year-old Crawford Street man was arrested at 3:15 a.m. on June 26 at the rear of the Ottoson Junior High

School parking lot. Police said they responded to a report of a burglary in progress on Acton Street and after checking the home they stopped a man in the area and questioned him. Police said the 19-year-old was in possession of the alleged stolen articles. Some personal papers from the home were reportedly later found in the area, po-

■ A 34-year-old Mass Avenue man was arrested in Belmont at 5:30 p.m. on June 26 for violating conditions of parole. He was turned over to Arlington police, who took him back to the Billerica House of Correction, police said. The state parole board issued the warrant and he will attend a special hearing to determine if there are any further penalties, police said.

■ A 17-year-old Lowell Street man was arrested at Buck Field off of Summer Street at 8:20 p.m. on June 26 for minor transporting of alcohol. Police responded to a call that there was a

disturbance and found a group gathered drinking beer.

Markey's amendment reduced

LARCENIES AND BREAK-INS

■ Two men attempted to rob another man after he refused to give them money during a confrontation at the intersection of Mass Avenue and Park Street on June 24 at 1:30 a.m., the victim told police. No items were taken and the alleged victim did not receive medical attention.

On June 25 police responded to a disturbance call on Newport Street where a 19-year-old man had entered a house and was threatening the residents. The intruder, who was known to the residents, allegedly assaulted two women, 42- and 16-years-old, and threatened a 17-year-old man. He was chased from the house and was gone by the time the police had arrived. Police said they will question the man who was identified as the suspect.

■ A bicycle valued at \$100 was stolen from a Summer Street home between June 16 and 17. Police said it was a Murray 10-speed bicycle.

A 15-speed mountain bike was stolen from a garage on Pond View Road. It was reported stolen on June 21 and the bicycle was valued at \$300.

 A BMX-GT bicycle was stolen from a Putnam Road garage on June 17. The bicycle was valued at \$292.

■ A 13-year-old Chandler Street boy

reported to police that two men

knocked him off of his bicycle on Brook

MISCELLANEOUS

Avenue on June 26 and fled, riding the bike. The 13-year-old did not sustain any injuries. The forest green mountain bike was valued at \$600, police said. The Arlington Police Department notified Cambridge police because the boy said the two men headed in that di-

FIRE

REPORT

vestigations

CAR FIRE

RESPONSES

■ Rescue Services responded

■ Arson is a suspected cause of

a car fire at 319 Broadway on June

20 and police said they are looking

Arlington Police Chief Eugene

Del Gaizo said two girls ap-

proached the owner of the black

Porsche 968 after the blaze and

told him they saw someone around

The owner of the Porsche, a

Cambridge resident, parked the

car off of Medford Street, near Lu-

igi's Deli around 2:30 p.m. When

firefighters responded to the call

at 7:54 p.m. the passenger's area

was fully involved, a fire official

Del Gaizo said investigators

need to speak with the two girls

further and although there were

no eye-witnesses, he said, "we

The damage to the car was esti-

know who we're looking for.'

mated at \$60,000

the car shortly before it ignited.

to question one suspect.

to a 81 calls last week. The calls in-

cluded 24 rescue calls and 16 in-

portant step in cutting radioactive pork out of the Defense budget. Now it is up to the Senate to act on this wasteful spending add-on.'

tures must be a primary consider-

Markey concluded, "With today's vote, the House took an im-



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House adopts Markey amendment

The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted 214 to 208 to approve an amendment offered by Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., which cut \$50 million in funding for a Swedish company to build a so-called "triple play" nuclear reactor in South Carolina that would produce tritium for nuclear bombs, burn plutonium from dismantled warheads as fuel and produce electricity.

Forty-nine Republicans joined 164 Democrats and one Independent in supporting the amendment

"The proposed triple play reactor would have posed a triple threat to U.S. national security policy, nuclear proliferation policy and national energy policy," said Markey.

He added, "The House acted wisely in cutting funds for this unnecessary and wasteful pork-barrel project."



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the authorization for tritium production from \$100 million down to the \$50 million requested by the Clinton administration, and eliminated language earmarking funds for a three-year, \$50 million "feasibility study" of the "triple play" reactor that had been added by the House National Security Commit-

The Clinton administration opposed the additional funding as unnecessary and said it would interfere with the ongoing process of determining how best to produce tritium, a radioactive gas used to increase the explosive power of

nuclear weapons. Critics also argued that the Swedish contractor's proposal was not economically viable due to the lack of demand for additional electricity in the Southeast and technically unproven, and would undermine U.S. nuclear non-proliferation efforts by eliminating the traditional separation between military and civilian nuclear programs.

The Markey amendment was also supported by a broad coalition of public interest organizations, including the National Taxpayer's Union, which noted that "if Congress is to balance the budget, avoiding unnecessary expendi-

New Contact Lens Program offered at MEDICAL CARE CENTER Beth Israel Hospital & Children's Hospital



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D. Moore, O.D., who has been a member of Children's Hospital's Department of Ophthalmology for 20 years. Fees are competitively

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Arlington woman says daughter abused

ABUSE, from page 1A

The DPPC report calls for the criminal prosecution of five employees of New England Residential Services (NERS), a Middletown, R.I. company that ran the home between September 1989 and December 1993. The committee also wants the company to be banned from operating its 25 other group homes in Massachusetts.

The DMR dropped NERS as the vendor for the Thoreau Road group home in December 1993 after losing confidence in the agency's ability to care for residents. The DPPC investigation concerned the years the company operated the facility before losing its

The report states NERS hired at least three people with serious criminal records, "and that these persons became perpetrators of abuse to residents at Thoreau Road.'

The report suggests that DMR regional and local directors were slow to respond to allegations of abuse and that investigators were incompetent. "In one case, even where there was a witness to abuse, the DMR investigator failed to conclude that abuse had occurred," the report says.

The DPPC recommends disciplinary action be taken against five specific DMR employees named in the report, including DMR area director Eileen Ginnety, who's office is based in Garabedian said Arlington. Ginnetty knew there were reports of abuse at the home when she referred her daughter to it.

Ginnety declined comment on the report.

DMR employees investigated complaints of abuse at the home in 1992 and sought criminal charges against one employee at the home. but the courts ruled there was insufficient evidence to pursue the charges, said Gerald Ryan, spokesman for the DMR.

He said improvements have been made in DMR's investigate units since the first reports of abuse at the Thoreau Road home surfaced. The DMR investigation was cited as incompetent by the DPCC.

"We have serious questions with this report and how investigators came up with the new evidence,' Ryan said, referring to the DPCC report that was released last week.

Mike Brooks, executive director of the DPPC, said the charges stem from new reports of abuse. "This is not just a repeat of what the DMR investigated in the past," he said.

Ryan said the five DMR employ-

ees whose actions are questioned

in the report have worked their

entire careers trying to improve conditions for people with mental retardation. "Their careers and lives have been besmirched on the basis of this report," he said.

Taking responsibility

Ryan said the DMR will continue to take responsibility for the events that occurred at the Thoreau Road residence, but will finish reviewing the 280-page report before deciding whether to discipline the five employees it mentions. No decision has been made on whether the DMR will drop the current contracts it has with NERS, he said.

A spokesperson with the Attorney General's office said they received the DPPC report and will review it to determine the appropriate action.

Michael Worthen, executive director of NERS, told the AP last week that he feels there are some definite accusations in the report that are incorrect.

"We're not ducking or running from this at all. We're feeling very responsible and we want to respond," he said.

"There were definitely some things that occurred and we, as an agency, took action on things that were substantiated," including firing some staff members, he said.

NERS assistant executive director Peter Comella said all 25 homes in Massachusetts run by NERS meet DMR certification requirements, which were updated last spring. He said that at the time of the alleged abuses, the company's policy was not to conduct background criminal record checks on potential employees, nor was the policy mandated by

Ryan said background checks for criminal records were not required by the DMR until until January, 1993. Now, he said, "anyone hired as a direct care position has to clear a criminal record check,"

Needed improvements

The DMR fields about 2,000 complaints of abuse every year, according to Ryan. "Any time there is a complaint or suspicion of abuse we have to investigate," he said.

Ryan said improvements have been made in the investigative units at DMR. Those units had been cited for incompetency in the DPPC report.

The DMR has completely changed it's investigative practices by giving agents more control, Ryan said. When the DMR first investigated reports of abuse at Thoreau Road in 1992, agents were less focused because they had other duties besides investigations. Now, Ryan said, the investigative department does solely that

Also, under a new group home

certification program instituted last spring called Quality Enhanced Service Tool, or QEST, the DMR has begun to focus more on the quality of life and dignity a home provides the residents, said Daniel Harrison, program director of Kelleher Workshop.

Kelleher is an Arlington vocational training center for people with mental retardation.

DMR employees now pick 30 percent of the residents in the group home and track their daily life to determine whether they are receiving the proper care and support. The happiness of the residents or the competency of group home workers when interacting with residents was not as much a focus under the old method, Harrison said.

"You could scurry around for a week before and get through it," he said.

There are at least four group homes in Arlington. Harrison said in the seven years he's been working with disabled people living in group homes in town, he has called the DMR on cases of suspected abuse several times. "By omission we can be guilty," he

If, for instance, a person with mental retardation comes into Kelleher Workshop with a bruise and no one knows how it got there, Harrison said he calls it in. It could be that a staff member is treating the person roughly, or it could be the person fell down. "You don't know so you can't take a chance," he said.

But other factors remain that take chance to a new level.

The average pay scale for care workers is another contributing factor to instances of abuse in group homes, Ryan said. The average salary for care workers, according to figures of the Mass. Providers Association, is between \$16,000 and \$18,000, Ryan said. "If pay rates are more competitive you tend to get a better employee.'

Presently, there are 2,000 people across the state not getting the care they require, and another 2,000 people on a waiting list who've requested care but are not receiving any, Ryan said.

Officials at the DMR update the list by prioritizing on the basis of the immediacy of the care needed. If a disabled person loses the family member taking care of him while awaiting a placement, for instance, they move to the top of the

"They are balancing a very dire situation with another one," Ryan

Moving on

Even before the allegations of abuse were reported at the Thoreau Road home, Garabedian was trying to get her daughter out of it and into a place closer to Arling-ABUSE, see page 6A



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Doors of local home open for Dorrington

LOCAL, from page 1A

worker at the state Department of Social Services. Whether that gave his story legitimacy is not known, but what is known is that his social worker started getting calls immediately after the second story appeared June 1. Not all the calls were from people wanting to take on the job of being Dorrington's parent. Some callers offered furniture, clothes and encouragement.

"The people at Chestnut Manor called, I thought that was different," Dorrington said, recounting a call from someone at the residence for senior citizens. "They had all talked about it and wanted to let me know that they were rooting for me.

Dorrington's social worker gave him the names of people who called Dorrington then called them back and set up interviews.

"I was looking for a parent who would treat me like an adult rather than a little kid," Dorrington said. "Most of them were concerned with drugs, drinking and smoking. I don't do any of the three, so that wasn't a problem.'

Some of the respondents were married couples with children. Others were divorced with no children. He met with them at a variety of places, including their homes and local restaurants.

"A lot of them are very nice people," Dorrington said.

After meeting with more than a dozen people, Halloran was his top choice. His social worker agreed with his decision, he said.

'She seemed to be the most reasonable, most caring," Dorrington said. "I like a person who has a sense of humor and she has a very

good sense of humor."

Halloran, who is divorced and was a single-parent for most of her child-rearing years, does not plan to be another mother to Dorrington. She wants to have a positive influence on his life as a mentor and friend.

"From the minute I met him I felt comfortable with him," Halloran said. "He is a wonderful young

She has made sure that Dorrington knows that he is getting more than just a room by moving into her home. She has introduced him to her friends in a dogwalking club at Spy Pond and plans to invite his aunt to dinner.

"I told him from the very beginning: 'You're not just having a room, you're getting a home,' "she

Dorrington wants to finish his write.

senior year at AHS, then find a full-time job and permanent residence here. His career goal is to step into his grandfather's boots as a firefighter with the Arlington Fire Department.

"I like the community a lot," he said. "It's a friendly town. It's a place I missed. I'm glad to be back, I really am.

Dorrington has obtained a post office box so he can correspond with new-found friends and supporters. His address is P.O. Box East Arlington, MA 02174-0021

"I want people to write if they want to know how I'm doing," Dorrington said. "Also, if someone out there has a problem that I can help them with, like teen-agers who are having a tough time or something like that, I want them to

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SCHOOL, from page 1A

committee in executive session but also went home before her pay hike was announced.

The meeting was also the forum for Donovan's annual report and for her review by the School Committee. Donovan listed a number of the school system's successes over the last year, including the securing of a \$50,000 grant and increased parental participation. She noted that the school population increased by more than 100 students when she began a year ago. She is on a three-year con-

tract. Healy briefly summed up Donovan's evaluation by the committee as "excellent" in almost every category but did not elaborate. Committee members filled out evaluation sheets that were turned over to Healy

The administrators' raises came at the same meeting where the School Committee formerly approved the new contract and pay hike for teachers.

The negotiations for the teachers' hike became bitter several times and committee member Barbara Goodman asked if there was a way to avoid such confrontation next time. She said other communities positioned themselves into "win-win" situations during salary negotiations and wondered why Arlington could not do the same. Donovan said she would look into

Committee member Martin Thrope sparked some debate when he proposed a method to curb some of the hostilities generated when complaints are brought to the committee.

ning list of problems that may be brought up during "public participation" when anyone can address mittee that on Thursday she preor question the committee.

grievances.

"I don't think a fair shake is more attention would be given to dealt with an issue when the night we decide on an issue is the first night we've heard about it,' Thrope said.

Several committee members said Thrope's proposal might impede parents' and teachers' access to the committee. Committee member Carolyn Simmons said the proposal must first be reviewed by the policy subcommit-He suggested administrators tee. Thrope said that's what he supply the committee with a run-meant and the subcommittee was charged with reviewing the policy.

Donovan reported to the comsented to parents a solution for a "When something is going to sixth grade class that will surpass bubble up to us the administration the maximum class size by two has a pretty good idea that it's go-next year. She said parents "overing to happen," said Thrope, argu- whelmingly approved" of the plan ing that knowing about a problem to combine a fifth and sixth grade beforehand would enable the com- class and have them team taught. mittee to give more of a "fair She said parents could meet with shake" to people who air their the teachers as a group or individually to talk about their child and the students.

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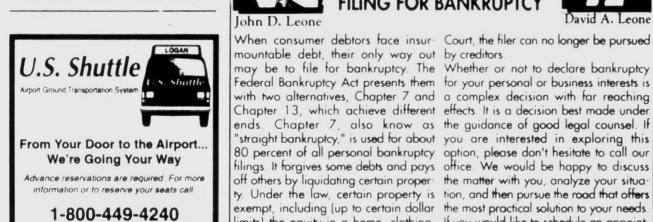
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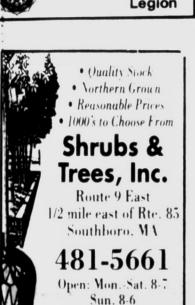


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Town plans for Reed's Brook property

SPACE, from page 1A

from set, McClennen said, but if history is any lesson, its destiny may be better off with the town calling the shots.

Coincidentally, the Open Space Plan Committee is in the process of re-writing the local open space rules to comply with state standards.

The town could also benefit monetarily with a detailed open space plan. State regulations require detailed plans from any town applying for federal funds through the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The state requested more mapping of town's open space, more detail - for example handicap access to the land - and the town's goals regarding the

uses of the property. In past years, the town has used some of this money for parks as well as the Boys and Girls Club. Hurley said the money could be used to acquire property. Last year the town wanted to buy some property on Grove Street, but was unsuccessful because Arlington was not awarded the money, she said.

"We haven't got to the action plan, who should do what and when," Clare Hurley said of the re-writing process. Hurley is a full-time planner for Arlington and she also leads the Open Space Plan Committee, which was as-

sembled by the Redevelopment Board. "As a planner, I think it's a good idea to have a plan for the open space," Hurley said.

The lobbying has started and the whispers in support of athletic fields or a driving range have made there way to McClennen's office

McClennen said these ideas were mentioned in an informal setting and emphasized that a decision is months. possibly one year, away

The Redevelopment Board is expected to submit a status report at next year's town meeting, McClennen said.

The attractiveness of a driving range, McClennen said, is that its low maintenance costs would help make it profitable in one or two years.

Supporters of the athletic fields also cite the bottom line as their selling

Donald Vitters, a member of the parks commission, said it is the commission's view to maintain as much open space at Reed's Brook as possible. He also said the town could use the space for more town athletic fields.

The cost to the town would be less if the decision was made to level the grade and draw chalk lines for soccer, softball or any other sports, McClennen

The Open Space Plan Committee has also offered its two cents worth.

In a May 9 memo to the Redevelopment Board, the committee outlined what should be done with the site.

The committee recommended that the area be used for recreational uses, the brook should be restored, and requested that there be minimal parking along the perimeter of the park and protect the three acres of wetlands.

A decision needs to be made whether the uses of the field will be active or passive. An active includes any athletic field and a passive use takes the shape of a landscaped park with trails, picnic areas or an open field.

The letter stated: "It is the consensus of the Open Space Plan Committee that Arlington should develop the Reed's Brook site for passive and low-intensity park use. Converting the Reed's Brook site into parkland will help meet the town's need for more public open space and may be the last opportunity the town has to make such important use of a large and undeveloped site."

Given its history, the Reed's Brook site may not appear to be a wise purchase, but according to McClennen it was an act of forethought.

McClennen said from 1959 to 1969 the town owned the land and used it as a landfill for residents' household trash. Since 1972 the tests were done on the soil and hazardous materials were located in one area, he said.

"It's like emptying a car gas tank into your front yard," McClennen said of the empty 270-gallon tank that was buried there. He said residual sludge released hydrocarbon into a small section of the ground.

"Since the town put the trash there, and if a developer discovered a midnight dump, then we would be the principle responsible party," McClennen explained."We have found nothing that exceeds any state or federal stan-

dard. In time the condition may improve itself.

"With each day the site gets marginally better," he said.

McClennen added that the property was recently assessed at \$3.8 million and that a Phase 2 test is the next step in the environmental assessment pro-

The open space dilemma although infrequent, is not completely new to Arlington. The privately-owned Mugar property near Route 2 had its share of the spotlight in years past.

Over 30 years ago, a Star Market was

almost built on the Mugar property. During the 1970s, two proposals were discussed, permits issues and then ig-

nored, McClennen said. Regional shopping centers were the trend. In order for a shopping center to flourish it needed access to Route 2. At

the time, plans for the Alewife Station

were under way and the state did not grant any additional curb-cuts on to Route 2. Without the curb-cut, and the town's resistance to increased local traffic, the shopping center idea struck

The Mugar interests came up with a second idea during the late 70s. Enticed by the city-like floor area ratio (the amount of square footage that can be built on one square foot of land) there was a proposal to build a 330,000 square foot office complex. The town had rezoned the Mugar property in 1969 and the floor area ration was 4:1, four square feet of building on one square foot of land.

Harvard Square is zoned 4:1, the Winslow Tower is zoned 1.75:1 and the largest in Arlington, 385 Mass Ave., is zoned 2.5:1, McClennen said.

"It was zoned into infeasibility," McClennen said.

Just by altering the zoning regulations the value of the property skyrocketed. The marketplace could not keep up with the value of land, (Strike two) therefore the Mugar office park plans called for only developing about 11 percent of the parcel, McClennen said.

"The town has not prevented its development, the marketplace has," said McClennen. After this revelation, the floor area ration was downsized to

The wetlands at the Mugar site is another factor which has stalled any development. Although, in 1985 developers received a special permit from the town because the plan met the flood plain specifications, McClennen said.

Until the private interests contact the town, any future plans with the Mugar site are unknown to McClennen. Other rumors have circulated re-

garding a four-acre parcel of land at the Medical Center at Symmes. Over the past 10 years, McClennen

has met with some representative from the hospital about possible development, but no action has been taken. A few possibilities included an assisted living facility and an office for

'Chasing the development tax dollars does not help solve the town's (financial) problems," McClennen said.

for an opening in a group home.

physicians.

'We did everything to love and protect her, and I didn't believe in group homes at the time," she said. Garabedian said her daughter had been in and out of McLean Hospital in Belmont for treatment of mental illness since she was 15 years old. She said her daughter's doctor suggested it would be a good idea to place her in a group home where she could receive more constant care rather than being shuffled in and out of the hos-

So, Garabedian contacted the DMR and for the next six months her daughter spent time waiting

When space became available at the Thoreau Road residence, Garabedian said she knew then it wasn't ideal, but agreed on the recommendation of DMR workers. "We trusted their judgment," she

But the house was too far from Arlington, and the other residents were less communicative than their daughter, Garabedian said. She and her husband are still trying to get their daughter a placement closer to Arlington.

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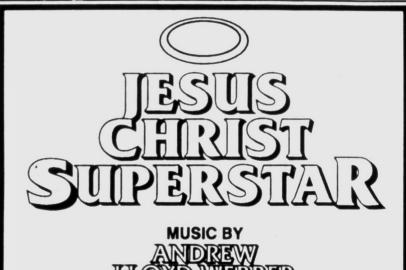
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Local Episcopal community remembers Rev. M. J. Sproat

By Will Morton SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

The Arlington Episcopal community mourned the passing of Rev. M. Jeanne Sproat this week, remembering her vivacity and hailing her achievements.

Rev. Sproat, the first woman to be ordained to the priesthood by the Episcopal Diocese of Boston, the largest in the nation, died of cancer Monday in her Arlington home. She was 61

"Her sense of humor and wit continued with her until near the end," said Rev. David Clark, Rector of St. John's Episcopal on Pleasant Street. Clark was taking her communion on her last few

He said Rev. Sproat was comfortable and spoke openly about what she was experiencing as she neared the end.

Obituary information, see page 14A

After she became a member of the Order of St. Anne in Arlington in 1953, Rev. Sproat made her decision to seek ordination. According to Clark, her superior at St. Anne's gave her the ultimatum that if she proceeded, she would have to leave the Order. And proceed she did. On Jan. 15, 1977, four months after the Episcopal Convention in Milwaukee allowed women to be ordained, she became the first woman ordained to the priesthood by the Episcopal Diocese of Boston.

Clark said Rev. Sproat was aware of her sacrifice, which entailed leaving behind her identity in the Order of St. Anne's to seek a new one. Her decision instilled inspiration in others. The fact that vigil hours were held yesterday at St. Anne's Chapel in Arlington testifies to the impact of Rev. Sproat's decision, Clark said. "Even though she had to leave the order, she's very much in their hearts."

Clark said a wide support group of volunteers were there to help care for and read to Rev. Sproat during her last few months. Rev. Sproat had been sharing a home on Westminster Avenue with Clara Hewis, a close friend and companion, since 1982. "She always had someone with her," Hewis said.

After Rev. Sproat had to leave her position as canon pastor of the

Rose is named Advocate editor



Tom Rose

A new editor has joined the staff of The Arlington Advocate.

Tom Rose was named to the position earlier this month. He replaces Bob S. Sprague, who left the newspaper in April to become an adviser to student media groups at Northeastern University.

"So far I've had a nice welcome to the Arlington community," Rose said after one week on the job. 'Our readers seem to care about the The Advocate. I hope to reward their interest by delivering a top-notch newspaper each week."

N.Y., has a bachelors degree in English from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He worked as a reporter at three daily newspapers before taking the job at The Advocate.

Rose, 30, a native of Garden City,

A resident of Cambridge, Rose has received journalism awards from the North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia press associations. While working as a police reporter at the Savannah (Ga.) Morning News, Rose won state Associated Press awards for his profile of a drug kingpin and as part of a team of reporters who covered the 1989 mail bombing deaths of a federal

alderman. One of Rose's first duties will be to hire a full-time reporter to replace Marc Levy. Rose does not have any major plans for changes at The Advocate, which this year was named the top weekly newspaper in its circulation category by the New England Newspaper As-

judge in Alabama and a Savannah

sociation. "The Advocate will continue to serve Arlington residents by giving them important news about their town - news they cannot find while reading any other newspaper," Rose said.

Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston due to her illness, she still worked at home issuing spiritual direction to people who wanted and needed it, Hewis said. "She was a very special person," she

Rev. Mathew Lawrence, who until June 11 was Rector of Church of Our Savior, another Arlington's Episcopal Church, also took Rev. Sproat's communion when she was confined to bed. Rev. Lawrence said he was a friend of her's for many years. "She was a real pi-

'She was known as a tough-minded woman who loved fiercely and was loyal to her calling to bear the Good News. She represented a real spirit of courage and love.'

REV. MATHEW LAWRENCE

Rev. Lawrence, now with a church in Ann Arbor, Mich., said Rev. Sproat's position as canon pastor at the Cathedral of St. Paul, which she held until her retirement last October, made her her very visible within the diocese. He said she represented an indomitable spirit of truth and justice.

"She was known as a toughminded woman who loved fiercely and was loyal to her calling to bear the Good News," Rev. Lawrence said. "She represented a real spirit of courage and love."

Flora Keshgegian, an Associate University Chaplain at Brown, was in town to attend services yesterday. Keshgegian, who herself was among the first women to be ordained in Pennsylvania, said she'd known Rev. Sproat since 1973 when the two were members of a national group of women seeking ordination.

Shortly after the Episcopal Convention in Milwaukee voted to allowed it, many women across the country were ordained. "It was

nice to know it was happening in other places in the country," Keshgegian.

7A

She said the last time she and Rev. Sproat held a conversation, the topic, following charges against a Woburn priest for abusing a youth, was clergy sexual abuse. "I was so struck by her clarity about how harmful it is to someone when that happens," she said.

Keshgegian said Rev. Sproat provided a real center for the diocese in her position as canon pastor in Boston. "She had a wonderful way of being present," she said.

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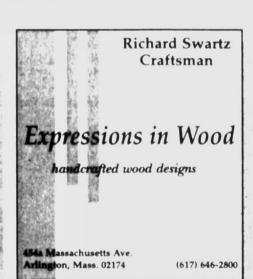
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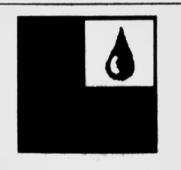
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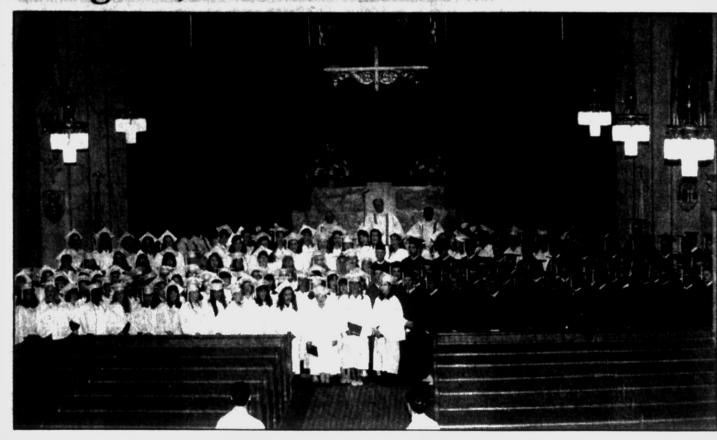
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COMMENT



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Editorial

Abused again

eading reports of physical and sexual abuse against disabled people produces a of nausea that starts immediately and lasts throughout the day. Then anger sets in. Read today's front page story and try to imagine being Rose Garabedian, the moth-

er of a mentally retarded woman allegedly raped at a group home in Northboro. For her, the report by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission is the first indication that her nightmarish quest to be

heard has caught the ear of at least someone in the state bu-The protection commission's service to the mental health and retardation community is immeasurable. It is an independent state agency charged with investigating any report of abuse stemming from the state's departments of Health and Mental Retardation. Unfortunately, cases like this are all too common.

Here is a short sampling of its last three years of work: ■ In 1992 the commission reported that state employees and contractors routinely ignored a 1986 law requiring them to report all instances of alleged abuse to the commission.

■ The same year, the commission reported that Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) supervisors altered an investigator's report on the alleged sexual abuse of mentally retarded patients at a Worcester home.

■ It found in 1993 that a mentally retarded man had been sexually abused while assigned to a state-funded group home in Framingham.

■ The following year it reported that residents of the Monson Developmental Center in Palmer were "at risk" after investigating the case of a retarded woman who suffered a total of nine bone fractures over a 10-year period at the facility.

■ Then earlier this year, the protection commission suggested that the Supreme Judicial Court monitor an educational center after it found the practice of spatula spanks and finger pinches to be abusive treatment.

While it is likely that patient-abuse cases continue to go unreported to the protection commission, it has a full caseload. Luckly, the state legislature supports its work. In 1992, legislators voted to double the commission's budget, allowing it to increase its investigative staff.

This move came at the right time. With the push toward using private companies to run group homes, the DMR had lost some direct control of state-funded programs.

Does the commission's work result in action? At times it does. In the case of the 1992 incident at the Worcester group home, the DMR fired one investigator and suspended another.

Often, however, reports from the commission are met with skepticism or out-right criticism. Gerald Ryan, spokesman for the DMR, has questioned the investigative techniques used in the latest report. He has also spoken strongly in support of five DMR employees cited in the report's 290 pages.

Ryan's reaction is not surprising. The DMR conducted its own investigation several years ago and implemented changes. It even resulted in charges against one employee, but the case un-

However, in light of DMR's shoddy track record, we wonder if he should be so quick to react in support of the employees. The protection commission's report - every aspect of it - should be taken seriously. The DMR should conduct a thorough investigation of the actions of supervisors involved with Rose Garabedian's daughter and the three other women who may have suffered physical and sexual abuse.

If these employees acted in disregard to the health and wellbeing of their charges, then action should be swift and severe. Examples must be set before the abuse of mentally retarded patients becomes a rare occurrence.

Good news

t appears not all Arlington residents are as cynical as some newspaper editors.

When a letter from a rising senior at Arlington High School appeared on these pages earlier this month, there was more than a little doubt that he would get his wish and find a place to stay next school year.

The response at first was slow, just what some of us expected. Maybe readers were skeptical, wanting more verification on his hard-luck tale.

But interest picked up. Arlington residents responded with an overwhelming display of kindness. It is a story that helps keep Arlington's small-town feeling in a big-town environment.

In return for its help, the newspaper requests one thing of the student: Do your homework.

The Arlington Advocate

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IN RESPONSE TO LAST WEEK'S VISIT BY THE MARLBORO CIGARETTE VAN, THE AMERICAN HEART + LUNG ASSOCIATION

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WE'VE GOT BUMPER STICKERS TOO...

Popping the question: How did we get here?

For millions of years, mankind has asked the question, Uh, How Did We Get Here? And I guess there are several Theories.

One suggests that a big explosion took place; then things began dispersing fast and cooling down kind of like take-out pizza. Another maintains the Earth was without form, and void, and darkness moved upon the face of the deep. This theory culminates in the creation of "Adam," a clean-shaven Ken-doll sort of a guy, who met up with "Eve," a lady in a bathing suit (or maybe only part of a bathing suit), who looked like Suzanne Somers and had really long hair rich ground grew trees and flowcovering her Nakedness (or her ers and out of their crevices, spirbathing suit, depending on your translation...)

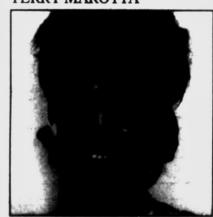
Then there's the theory the Guys in Tunics cooked up, which I recently learned about while glancing through our fifth-grader's (Greek Myths workbook. This theory explains how "Gaea" (the Earth) met up with "Uranus" (the Sky) who "looked down on her and they were joined in love." Soon, Earth gave birth to 12 kids; and Uranus was pleased. Then she gave birth again; but this time Uranus was not so pleased (on account of how this time the babies all had one big eye in the middle of their

foreheads); and then she had another three sons, each with 50 heads and 100 arms (it might have actually been a bunch of five-yearolds in tunics who wrote these myths.) And Uranus really hated them and threw them into Tartarus (where Tartar sauce comes from) and boy, was Gaea mad! So she made a sickle and gave it to her Titan sons and told them to "put an end to their father's cruelty" (meaning spay him), which they promptly did. And then along came Pontus, the Boundless Sea, who became her second husband, and "from her its and beasts and man...'

Anyway, over time a lot of people have been able to pick and choose among the bright threads of all these tales and stitch themselves up a nice Origins of Life theory; whereas others have settled for drawing a bead on its more specific and equally compelling version: 'Where Do Babies Come From?" The answer to which, in our town at least, is presented to the 11- and 12-year-olds as part of the Human Growth Program sponsored by the good people of Procter & Gamble, whose video on the subject I just happened to catch the sneak pre-

LIFE AND ALL THAT

TERRY MAROTTA



view of last week in the school

Approved by the National Association of School Nurses, the film struck just the right tone to help kids "understand the process of physiological and social maturation, and be aware of the mechanism of fertilization and birth...' (Lucky for us all, this last part happened off screen, and was only glancingly referred to - "If a woman's egg is fertilized..." (This wasn't, after all, prime time T.V.)

As for ground rules, the school printed up some guidelines for the

kids' discussions afterward ("No questions are stupid; We will use proper anatomical terms; Giggling is okay if you are nervous...").

The video showed some cartoon people, inside whose heads the "Pituitary Gland" lit up at the onset of "Puberty," sending a signal to two cartoon drawings of your insides (the female's looking like one of those Georgia O'Keefe painting of a steer's head, the male's like the drawing on a can of Drano.) It also showed some real-life kids asking real-life things ("I feel so clumsy. Whose body is this anyway?") And gave some all-round good advice (Shower daily. Wear deodorant.) Anyway, the gym teacher and the school nurse, the principal and us previewing parents all got through it without too much embarrassment.

As for the kids, we can only assume they did too, when they final-When mine came home that day,

I asked him what he'd learned. 'The usual stuff about fallopian

tubes," he said.

"And were there any questions?

"Yup. One kid asked why men go

See? Study the subject all you want; parts of it still remain a mys-

Stop acts of discrimination

To the editor:

I must comment on the article written by Mr. Will Morton regarding Mr. Peter Agrillo. I am very familiar with the situation as mentioned by Mr. Morton and I found it to be fair and unbiased. I am Mr. Agrillo's brother-in-law and have had to endure the repercussions of the misdeeds noted in this article. Therefore, I will not comment on allegations, but I will comment on what I would expects as common respect or courtesy toward all peo-

We as human beings should not discriminate against nor act negatively toward those who we believe to be inferior to ourselves. Yet, it has become vogue to do so, especially with the younger generation. Unfortunately, this society has a tendency to make scapegoats of those we do not understand or those who are different from ourselves. The perpetrators of these acts believe the people that they condemn are not deserving of their care or consideration.

All of us have a commitment to treat each other as though they are human beings, not as low-class people. If this action had been taken toward some other ethnic or religious group it would not have been tolerated by the community or the legal system. Since Mr. Agrillo is only mentally handicapped, it has been taken as being acceptable to verbally and physically harass him at one's whim,.... I think not!

These types of action must cease for all people, no one is deserving of any form of humiliation. L. G. Moore

Letters to the Editor

Cartoon draws negative review

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the cartoon in the June 15 issue of your newspaper.

I certainly take offense to the implication that students after graduation either drink or work at Mc-Donalds. First of all, what is wrong with working at McDonalds? Some find it necessary to do so, some do it to earn money for college and others because there are no other iobs available.

Yes, some students drink, but not all students do and to group them all is not very fair.

This is the first time I've found it necessary to write to your paper but feel very strongly that the cartoon was in very poor taste. We should be encouraging our youth, not showing them this negative at-

Eleanor DiCecca

Smoking bans fit prescription

To the editor:

The Board of Health is to be commended for finalization and implementation of comprehensive tobacco control regulations. These regulations will go a long way toward safeguarding the health of Arlington citizens as well as visitors to town and people who work here. Furthermore they will help

Charles of the Control of the Contro

deter teenagers from smoking. Finally, the revenues from licensing fees for selling tobacco products will return to the town coffers.

I find perplexing the position of the Advocate in opposing the total ban on smoking in restaurants. It is impossible to confine cigarette smoke to part of a room; to truly protect non-smokers (including children) there must be separately ventilated smoking sections or rooms. Most Arlington restaurants are too small to be able to achieve this and would certainly find the cost prohibitive. How could the Board of Health fairly regulate smoking in restaurants? At one of the open hearings which preceded the passage of these regulations, an owner of a small eating establishment begged the Board of Health to hurry to establish a nonsmoking rule. The owners, who were non-smokers, were suffering impaired health because their clientele would not allow them to become smoke-free. They wanted a level playing field. Under the Americans for Disabilities Act, more and more customers and employees are demanding smokefree environments and business and restaurant owners are facing law suits if they do not comply. I believe many restaurants welcome these regulations. Has the Advocate received many complaints from restaurant owners?

"Unlike the situation with restaurants," states the Advocate editorial, "second-hand smoke in the workplace creates problems for

workers." You go on to support the ban of smoking in the workplace. Have you overlooked the fact that restaurants are a workplace? The Arlington smoking regulations are very consistent in protecting everyone. If restaurants were excluded, soon the workplace regulations would be thrown out as covering only some employees and not others.

Your editorial correctly points to the success of the state's antismoking campaign. Our town has directly benefited from the tobacco surtax and will continue to do so. Senator Havern deserves credit for his support of level funding of the tobacco programs in the senate this year. Do not believe for a moment, however, that the tobacco lobby has thrown in the towel; indeed, in Washington it is stronger than ever. You have an excellent suggestion that statewide regulations should be passed to protect the public. However, when these regulations contain clauses preempting or invalidation local regulations they are dangerous and often backed by the tobacco lobby, which finds it much easier to influence the legislature on its own behalf than hundreds of towns and cities. Smoking is, thankfully, on the decline, but not in young people, especially young women. Direct and indirect tobacco exposure is still the greatest killer in our country. Local governments and boards of health have an obligation to protect their citizens against this threat.

We are fortunate to have a board of health that takes its mission seriously and cares so deeply about

Carole E. Allen, M.D. Arlington LETTERS, see page 11A.